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**SENATE MEMORIAL 48**

**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003**

**INTRODUCED BY**

Joseph A. Fidel

**A MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THAT THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION  
INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO REMOVE LANDS IN THE CABEZON AREA FROM  
FEDERAL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA DESIGNATION.**

**WHEREAS, the federal bureau of land management has held  
tracts of federally owned lands in the Cabezon area of New  
Mexico in wilderness study area designation under the federal  
Wilderness Act for well over a decade; and**

**WHEREAS, the future of these lands are federally protected  
by the bureau of land management; and**

**WHEREAS, without wilderness study area or wilderness  
status, these lands are available for multiple use by the  
entire public; and**

**WHEREAS, the wilderness study area designation has  
prohibited management that may be beneficial to the natural**

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 resource; and

2 WHEREAS, these tracts of land contain permanent  
3 improvements and human habitation, including homesteads, roads  
4 and utility transmission lines, both water and power; and

5 WHEREAS, these improvements include the Cabezon water  
6 system, as well as roads accessing the checkerboard area for  
7 New Mexico's multicultural population; and

8 WHEREAS, these tracts include the Cabezon, Chamisa,  
9 Ignacio Chavez, Empedrado and La Lena wilderness study areas;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the board of county commissioners of Sandoval  
12 county, recognizing the multiple-use values and functions of  
13 the lands within these wilderness study areas, has endorsed  
14 returning those lands to their original uses; and

15 WHEREAS, only congress may take action on the status of  
16 these wilderness study areas, either designating them as  
17 wilderness areas or releasing them and making them available  
18 for use in accordance with the federal Multiple-Use Sustained-  
19 Yield Act of 1960;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional delegation  
22 introduce and pursue legislation to remove the Cabezon,  
23 Chamisa, Ignacio Chavez, Empedrado and La Lena wilderness study  
24 areas from wilderness study area designation and return them to  
25 use in accordance with the federal Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield

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Act of 1960; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional delegation.